

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:M.TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123447 TOSEC 020044

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE NIACT INFO BANGKOK JAKARTA
PARIS UDORN CDR USSAG KNKP DIA MACTHAI BANGKOK J3
CINCPAC CINCPACFLT FROM VIENTIANE MAY 27

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3757

JAKARTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, US, LA

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LAOS MAY 27

REF: VIENTIANE 3736

1. PROTESTS CONTINUE IN VIENTIANE: SMALL DEMON-
STRATION AT PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY CONTINUES INTO
ITS SECOND DAY WHEREAS ACTIVITY AT THE AGRICULTUR-
AL DIRECTORATE (BOTH REPORTED REFTEL) HAS COME TO
AN END. A MINOR PROTEST AT THE PLANNING COMMISSION,
CARRIED OUT BY HANDFUL OF OUTSIDERS (MANY OF THEM
STUDENTS FROM THE LAO-GERMAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL) GOT
UNDERWAY TODAY DESPITE RESIGNATIONS OF FOUR TOP PLAN
EXECUTIVES MAY 26 (SEPTTEL). DEMONSTRATIONS ALSO BEGAN
TODAY AT DIRECTORATE OF VETERAN'S AND WAR VICTIMS'
AFFAIRS, AT CUSTOMS (OPPOSITE USIS), AND REPORTEDLY
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AT VIENTIANE WATERWORKS. ACCORDING TO A USIS LOCAL,

CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES-UNIVERSALLY REGARDED AS CORRUPT--
INITIATED THEIR OWN DEMONSTRATION WHEN THEY HEARD
THAT OUTSIDE DEMONSTRATORS WERE ON THE WAY. (SEV-
ERAL SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY FLED TO
THAILAND TWO WEEKS AGO OR MORE.)

2. LPF ATTACK USAID WORKERS: DURING EARLY MORNING
150 TO 200 USAID EMPLOYEES MARCHED PEACEFULLY
FROM NA HAI DIAO TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE,
A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILES. AT PM'S RES-
IDENCE A DELEGATION OF THREE MEN AND ONE WOMAN
WERE PERMITTED TO SEE SOUVANNA; THEY ASKED THE PM
TO TAKE STEPS TO ASSURE THAT THEY RECEIVE THEIR SAL-
ARIES, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PAID DUE TO THE OCCUPATION
OF USAID COMPOUND. PM REPLIED THAT USG AND
ECONOMY MINISTER SOTH PHETRASY WERE ON THE THRESHOLD
OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PERMIT THE
EMPLOYEES TO RETURN TO WORK AND TO BE PAID TOMORROW,
MAY 28. EMPLOYEES ALSO ASKED THAT LAO GOVERNMENT HELP
THEM FIND EMPLOYMENT ONCE USAID OPERATIONS IN LAOS
HAVE TERMINATED. SOUVANNA PROMISED TO HELP ON A "STEP-
BY-STEP" BASIS. AFTER DELEGATION DEPARTED THE RESIDENCE
ONE OF THE FOUR TOLD THE ASSEMBLED CROWD WHAT HAD
HAPPENED INSIDE. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER SOME 30
ARMED LPF SECURITY FORCES TRIED TO ARREST THE MARCH
LEADERS. ONE OF THE FOUR SPOKESMEN AND A GIRL EMPLOYEE
WERE HANDCUFFED AND ARRESTED; ANOTHER WAS GRABBED BY
LPF BUT MANAGED TO ESCAPE INTO PM'S COMPOUND FROM
WHICH HE FLED TO THE MEKONG'S EDGE AND RAN ALONG THE
RIVER BANK TO SAFETY.

(COMMENT: IT WAS QUITE CLEAR FROM THE AMOUNT OF
CONTROL EXERCISED OVER THE MAIN ROAD TO AND FROM
THE PM'S RESIDENCE, PLUS ROUGHING UP OF USAID EM-
PLOYEES, THAT LPF CAN REACT QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY
WHEN IT WANTS TO. AT BOTH THE PM'S RESIDENCE AND
THE PLAN, LPF REPS HAVE KEPT TIGHT REIGN
ON EFFORTS TO MOUNT COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION. THE MOOD
AMONG USAID LOCAL EMPLOYEES IS TENSE AND FRIGHTENED;
MANY DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN.)

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3. TWO USAID FACILITIES TURNED OVER TO PGNU; WARE-
HOUSES CALM: USAID TODAY OFFICIALLY TURNED OVER THE
MEDICAL SUPPLY WAREHOUSE AT THAT LUANG AND THE
NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION AND REHABILITATION CENTER,
TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU).
SITUATION AT KM-9 AND KIM SUA WAREHOUSES IS UNCHANGED.

4. KM-6 TO BE EVACUATED AND TURNED OVER TO PGNU: WE

INTEND TO REMOVE ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL FROM THE KM-6 RESIDENTIAL AREA EARLY ON MAY 28. ONLY PERSONAL PROPERTY WILL REMAIN INSIDE SOME HOMES AND THE AMERICAN SCHOOL, AWAITING TRUCKS. WE ARE REQUESTING POLICE PROTECTION INSIDE THE FENCE, EFFECTIVE AS THE AMERICANS LEAVE, IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT FURTHER LOOTING OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND TO PROTECT BUILDINGS WHICH WILL SHORTLY BE TURNED OVER TO PGNU. (CRATED HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND AIR FREIGHT HAVE STILL NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO MOVE FROM LAOS, EITHER THROUGH WATTAY AIRPORT OR ACROSS THE MEKONG AT THANALENG.)

4. NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOTH ON NA HAI DIAO COMPOUND: THE CHARGE IS NOW ENGAGED IN SECOND OF TWO LONG NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WITH SOTH PHETRASY, IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK DEADLOCK OVER OCCUPATION OF NA HAI DIAO COMPLEX. WITH SOTH'S CONSENT, REPRESENTATIVES OF DEMONSTRATORS OCCUPYING USAID COMPOUND JOINED MORNING SESSION AFTER IT HAD GONE ON FOR 90 MINUTES (IT LASTED TWO AND A HALF HOURS) AND APPEARED AGAIN SOON AFTER START OF AFTERNOON SESSION. THIS SECOND SESSION HAS NOW RUN FOR MORE THAN FOUR HOURS; A LATE REPORTED INDICATED THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES AND SOME OF PGNU/DEMONSTRATOR PARTY PLANNED TO MOVE TO EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION'S CONFERENCE ROOM TO TYPE UP TEXTS, COMPARE TRANSLATIONS, AND RESOLVE ANY REMAINING DETAILS. MORE COMPLETE REPORT WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
CHAPMAN
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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